PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

MELISSA PLAISANCE ’82, P’13
PRESIDENT, BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A LOVE FOR REUNITING

“One of the most rewarding parts of the meeting was our reception for the Alumni Award winners, where we got to meet and recognize some outstanding Bucknellians.”

As I left the Bucknell campus on Saturday afternoon of Reunion weekend, a light rain began to fall. It was amazing to me how much activity had been packed into a few days, and I once again realized how much I love my alma mater.

The Executive Committee gathered Thursday night to discuss the weekend ahead and plan for the future. Several changes in our schedule for Homecoming and the Winter Meeting were discussed. I then had the privilege of addressing the Emeritus classes (50th Reunion and above) to fill them in on the activities of the BUAAs ... Open Doors, Volunteer, Give Back, Engage and Return ... and introduced President John Bravman at the first dinner designed for this group in the lobby of the Weis Center. The group was delightful, and they were a great audience. Afterwards, the BUAAs gathered at the Bucknell Observatory and had a chance to observe the moon through an amazing century-plus old telescope and to see Jupiter and three of its moons through a smaller but more powerful telescope on the roof top deck.

On Friday, we had updates from Admissions on an outstanding year in applications and admissions from Rob Springall, Dean of Admissions, learned about new technology and ways of learning from Param Sedi, VP for Library & Information Technology, and had a very engaging update and discussion with President Bravman on topics ranging from admissions, diversity and Greek life. We also met in our committees and continued moving ahead with our goals and objectives. Strategic Planning also dropped into each committee meeting to help prepare for a mid-term report to be prepared this summer.

One of the most rewarding parts of the meeting was our reception for the Alumni Awards recipients, where we got to meet and recognize some outstanding Bucknellians: Gbenga Akinnagbe ’00, Jacqueline Hornor Plumez ’65, Ronald Bravman on topics ranging from admissions, diversity and Greek life. We also met in our committees and continued moving ahead with our goals and objectives. Strategic Planning also dropped into each committee meeting to help prepare for a mid-term report to be prepared this summer.

With Bucknell alumni events happening throughout the summer, the wheels of progress never fully come to a halt. However June and July provide a few moments for our office to assess how we did this past year and consider what we need to accomplish next year. Assessment and planning are standard parts of any successful organization, and this summer our office will begin a more expansive strategic planning exercise to prioritize our goals from now until 2020. We hope to have this process completed by fall. We recognize that our planning cannot take place in a vacuum and we will gather feedback from stakeholders across the spectrum of engagement.

Before we know it, Homecoming will be here on Oct. 23 through Oct. 25, as we all can appreciate, Bucknell in late October is a pretty special time. However this Homecoming will have some additional special opportunities with the first being the third Alumni Leadership Summit which will take place on Saturday morning. Part of the reason we aim to complete the strategic plan by fall is so we can use this time with our volunteer leaders — key stakeholders in planning process — to gather feedback. Additionally, the Black Alumni Association will be celebrating the 140th anniversary of the graduation of Edward McKnight Brawley, Bucknell’s first African-American graduate. There will be a series of events over the weekend to mark this occasion. And finally, we will test First Night as an event around Homecoming to better connect first-year students with alumni earlier in their first year.

In periods of reflection, like Strategic Planning, we often think about the drivers for success — and volunteers are without a doubt one of our most important partners. Whether you refer someone for admission to Bucknell, lead a club, serve on an alumni board, plan a reunion, recruit for your company at Bucknell, or anything else, we just want to simply say thank you for your amazing support. We could not do what we do without each of you.

See you at Homecoming!
LIVING LIFE BEYOND A CAREER: THE MEANING OF MARTIAL ARTS

ANTHONY MARINIELLO ’90

Production meetings, marketing plans, reviewing P&L’s, along with school activities and helping with homework; all of us working together to manage the day-to-day life of an active family of four (plus a dog). It is easy to lose sight of yourself and your health, both physically and mentally. Enter the world of martial arts.

Almost four years ago, while managing all of the day-to-day running we all know so well, the occasional round of golf and walk on the treadmill was not enough to keep my body and mind active and in shape. I needed to do something more. Just having had a physical, the doctor gave me orders to become active again. The next day, I watched my son graduate to his green belt in the martial arts, and thought, maybe I could do this? After the graduation ceremony, I approached Tashi Mark Warner and asked him if this “stuff” could help get me healthy. He smiled, handed me a gi (the school uniform), and said, “see you on Monday at noon.” And so the journey began.

The journey is one I share with my family. My wife and daughter joined my son and I to study the arts. My wife practices Thai Kick Boxing and my daughter focuses on the art of Kung Fu. The saying we often laugh about when we go to class is “the family that kicks together, sticks together.”

In October of 2014, and my family were on Crane’s Beach in Ipswich, MA, not to soak up the sun, but instead to test for our black belts. My son tested for his second-degree black belt, my wife for her first degree in Thai Kick Boxing (TKD), my daughter for her first-degree in Kung Fu, and I tested for my first degree black belt in both Kung Fu and TKD. Hours later and after a demonstration to a full house of spectators, we received our belts. It was the first time in our school’s history that an entire family received their black belts on the same day.

Martial arts has opened my eyes to so many things outside of the typical day-to-day events that our careers and typical business lives bring to us. I never thought I would be able to accomplish such a goal, or even begin to achieve one in the martial arts so late in life. But, as I have learned, it is never too late to learn something new. And as we continue the journey we remember what Confucius says, “it does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.”
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The Bucknell University Alumni Association confers annual awards to distinguished alumni each year. This year, during Reunion Weekend 2016, the following winners were honored during the State of the University, Recognitions and Awards event at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 30 at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts.

Service to Humanity
Awarded to an alumni/us whose selfless and caring work and deeds benefit society and humankind.

Jacqueline Hornor Plumez ’65
A psychologist, career counselor, speaker and journalist/writer, Jacqueline practices psychotherapy and career counseling in Larchmont, N.Y., and Manhattan. Her 500 fellow psychologists in Westchester County have voted her their Distinguished Psychologist and honored her with their Distinguished Service Award. She received a B.S. in Business Administration from Bucknell University in 1965 and holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from Columbia University.

Jacqueline’s humanitarian work began in 1998 when she met with the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, a human rights group formed by grieving Argentine mothers searching for children abducted by the country’s military regime between 1976 and 1983. Those interviews inspired her to write Mother Power: Discover the difference that women have made all over the world.

Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession
Awarded to an alumni/us whose professional accomplishments and achievements are exceptionally noteworthy and distinctive in his or her profession.

Ronald S. Baron ’65
Ron graduated from Bucknell University with a B.A. in chemistry in 1965. In 1968, he began his investment career as a securities analyst in New York City. In 1982, Baron Capital presently manages more than $28 billion. Ron is the firm’s CEO and Chief Investment Officer. Baron founded Baron Capital Management, an investment management firm located in New York City.

Charles H. Brandes ’65
Charles Brandes serves as Chairman of Brandes Investment Partners’ five-member Executive Committee and member of the firm’s Investment Oversight Committee. Charles founded Brandes Investment Partners in 1974.

Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession
Awarded to an alumni/us whose professional accomplishments and achievements are exceptionally noteworthy and distinctive in his or her profession.

Loyalty to Bucknell
Awarded to an alumni/us whose service, dedication and commitment to alma mater are extraordinary.

Richard C. Skelton ’60
Dick Skelton has dedicated his life to Bucknell, starting as a student to working here for more than 36 years in admissions, retiring as Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Planning in 2005. During his tenure here, he has influenced and inspired an uncountable number of people, from students to faculty to staff. In his role as Director of Admissions, he was highly visible; there are very few Bucknell alumni who do not know him. Over the course of his career, he represented the values and ideals of Bucknell. In 1980, he received the Geiger Award for demonstrating consistent excellence in both his exceptional contributions to Bucknell and his professionalism in working with others in their day-to-day work.

The Dick Skelton Scholarship was established in 2000 by friends and trustees of Bucknell to honor his more than 36 years as an admissions officer at Bucknell. Preference for the scholarship award is given to students from Wayne, Pike or Monroe counties in Pennsylvania, who demonstrate financial need. As an alumnus, Dick participated in his 35th Reunion program, volunteered as a class committee member and a Reunion gift committee member, and has offered his services as a CDC volunteer. He often designates his own gifts to either his scholarship, those of his friends, the Bison Club or the Bucknell Fund.

Young Alumni
Awarded to an alumni/us of the last 15 years whose professional accomplishments, service to alma mater and/or selfless and caring work to benefit society are distinctive.

Gbenga T. Akinnagbe ’00
A successful actor, screenplay writer and producer, Gbenga is best known for his roles as Chris Partlow in The Wire; Pastor Isaiah Easton in The Good Wife; Erik Ritter in 24; and Kelly Slater in Nurse Jackie. His film credits include The Savages with Philip Seymour Hoffman and Laura Linney; The Takers and The Taking of Pelham 123 with Denzel Washington and John Travolta; and The Edge of Darkness with Mel Gibson.

Gbenga’s latest film, The Last King of Scotland, premiered at the Sundance film festival. His latest film, The Savages, credits include The Taking of Pelham 123 with Denzel Washington and John Travolta; and The Edge of Darkness with Mel Gibson.

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Dick received a B.S. in Business Administration in 1960 and an M.S. in Business Administration in 1970. He is married to Cynthia Heigens Skelton ’63, their children are Melissa ’92 and Julie.

Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession
Awarded to an alumni/us whose professional accomplishments and achievements are exceptionally noteworthy and distinctive in his or her profession.

Charles H. Brandes ’65
Charles Brandes serves as Chairman of Brandes Investment Partners’ five-member Executive Committee and member of the firm’s Investment Oversight Committee. Charles founded Brandes Investment Partners in 1974.

A CFA, Charles has 46 years of investment experience, including being an acquaintance and student of Benjamin Graham, widely considered the father of value investing. He is a board member of several organizations involved in scientific, eelemosynary and cultural work.

Charles received an economics degree in 1965, followed by graduate studies at San Diego State University.
After a lively roundtable discussion among emeritus board members at the winter meeting of the BUAA regarding “Lifelong Learning for Bucknell Alumni”, several ideas were generated and some have been acted upon. Below is a quick Q & A and an update on actions taken as a result of the very productive session.

1. Why and when lifelong learning?
   - It can be a great way to:
     - re-engage alumni and build affinity, especially our community of intellectually curious lifelong learners
     - offer activities that are a nice mix of learning and fun
     - offer meaningful programming to alumni who bring their children to engineering camps, etc., on campus, perhaps beginning by enhancing existing ‘bite sized’ events and scheduling them to coincide with other on-campus events (reunion weekend, polar plunge, basketball games, etc.)

2. What could lifelong learning look like?
   - A variety of venues, creating a holistic approach to learning would be optimal: on-campus workshops/classes, online archives of recorded live sessions, and off-campus events (regionally, perhaps in coordination with local alumni clubs).
   - Two models:
     - Alumni University during Reunion Weekend
     - Exploration of a possible Alumni Symposium-style event

   - Comments and suggestions by Emeritus BUAA board members contributed to revisions in this year’s program:
     - focused on two academic areas – history and the sciences
     - taught by alumni and current faculty
     - geared toward intellectually curious lifelong learners
     - some sessions sponsored by reunion classes and taught by an alumni member from each class, but open to everyone
     - record at least some of the Alumni University sessions to make available online at a later date (as part of the online learning options)

   - IMPLEMENTATION: Reunion Weekend 2015
   - Exploration of a possible Alumni Symposium-style event
     - A new program similar to those conducted by other universities that would:
       - focus on select topics within a single academic area over the course of a year
       - consist of mini-classes each day over a weekend across multiple topic ‘tracks’ — (i.e., arts, sciences, engineering, management, etc.)
       - culminate in a closing event with keynote speaker
     - offer more opportunities for alumni to interact with faculty
     - be recorded and loaded onto the Bucknell website as archived files for online learning

   - IMPLEMENTATION: design plan and structure in place by Fall 2015 and live in 2016

Thank you to those of you who assisted in exploring the Lifelong Learning initiative as a way of re-engaging alumni. There were many other ideas for future consideration but we wanted you to know that the input provided has helped craft these two flagship programs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or Josh Grill, Director of the Alumni Office.

This year, we branded the Community Service program as Bucknell CARES, which stands for Bucknell Clubs Annual Regional Events of Service.

The Alumni Board sponsored a t-shirt design contest for the Bucknell CARES events. Hopefully, many of you have seen the shirts at your events. Congratulations to 2014 grad, Stephen DeMelis, who created the shirt design.

This year, Clubs planned 22 events, the same number as last year. Unfortunately, two of the events had to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond the club’s control. Even so, events thus far have engaged 375 people, which is 53 more people than last year, and we still have one more event next weekend.

Of the events,
- 23% were park or beach cleanups;
- 18% were charity walks/runs;
- 18% were food drives/food banks;
- The remainder were a variety of projects with the elderly, the arts, children and other types of functions.

A slideshow was created with photos from all the BU CARES events at bucknell.edu/BucknellCARES.

Congratulations to Steve DeMelis ’14, who is the winner of the inaugural Bucknell CARES T-Shirt Design Contest. The winning design was imprinted on t-shirts that were distributed at the BUAA’s annual community service events this spring. Thanks for making this contest a success!

This year’s t-shirt design contest kicks off on October 1. Entries are due December 30, 2015. For details, visit: bucknell.edu/ BucknellCares

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THE BUAA – WHAT IS IT THAT WE DO?

The Bucknell University Alumni Association (BUAA) Board of Directors is a diverse group of passionate alumni who care about maintaining a strong bond between alumni and the university and students. We return back to campus three times a year and are involved year-round. We get the question a lot — “When you are back on campus — what do you DO?” So here’s a peek of our Reunion Meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday, May 28, 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 – 7:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>8 – 9:30 p.m. Alumni Board Social Gathering at the Observatory</td>
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<th>Friday, May 29</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9 a.m. Registration &amp; Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome &amp; Key Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Agenda summary/logistics</td>
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<td>• Board and University updates: Rob Springall - Admissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Preparation for Alumni Association Awards Reception</td>
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<td>9:30 – 11:45 a.m. Committee Meetings (Strategic Planning Sessions)</td>
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<td>11:45 – 1 p.m. Lunch &amp; University updates: A conversation with John Bravman</td>
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<td>1 – 1:15 p.m. Break</td>
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<td>1:15 – 2:30 p.m. General Session: Param Bedi – The Future of Higher Ed</td>
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<td>2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Full Board Meeting</td>
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<td>3:45 – 4 p.m. Transition to Awards Reception</td>
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<td>4 – 5 p.m. Reception with Alumni Association Award Recipients</td>
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<td>6 – 8 p.m. Alumni Board Dinner at Brasserie Louie</td>
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<td>9 p.m. – Midnight Reunion Class Happy Hours</td>
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<th>Saturday, May 30</th>
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<td>10 – 11 a.m. Mimosa with the Faculty at the Weis Center</td>
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<td>11 – 11:45 a.m. State of the University, Recognitions and Awards</td>
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<td>11:45 a.m. – Noon Spirit Parade, Weis Center to Sojka Pavilion</td>
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<td>12 – 1 p.m. Luncheons Across Campus</td>
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<td>1 – 3:30 p.m. Alumni Festival</td>
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<td>4 – 5 p.m. President’s Volunteer Recognition Reception</td>
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<td>9 – Midnight Bison Blast Under the Big Tent (and Fireworks!)</td>
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<td>9 – Midnight Jazz Bar at Weis Center Lobby</td>
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BUAA SUPPORTS THE BUCKNELL PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAM (BPIP)

LETTERS SUBMITTED TO BUAA PRESIDENT, MELISSA PLAISANCE

The Bucknell Public Interest Program (BPIP) enjoys the collaboration of alumni, parents, faculty, and administrators working together to educate students about careers in the nonprofit and public service sectors. The program works closely with the Bucknell Public Service Network (BPSN) to support programming that gives students opportunities to learn about these sectors. This year the BUAA made a $15,000 contribution to the BPIP Internship Fund which is a competitive summer internship program that provides $3,000 stipend to selected undergraduate students who have secured unpaid internships in the nonprofit, public service sector. Here are some of the quotes that we received from the recipients:

"I look forward to working with Concern Counseling and dedicating myself to helping families build better and healthier relationships with each other and their greater communities. — A. Roe Russell"

"I will be helping to plan and stage the 5th World Children’s Festival in Washington, DC ... this festival acts as the Olympics of children’s creativity, and is expecting 250,000 participants and online learners from all over the globe. — Kristen Verille, International Child Art Foundation"

"Thank you so much for funding my summer internship. I will be working for eight weeks at Charles Mays General Hospital investigating the role of stem cells in leukemia ... which is currently run by Dr. David Scadden, a Bucknell alum. — Adrian Berg"

"I will be working on energy reduction projects, a carbon credit program and research into new renewable energy technologies ... I know this internship will help me develop my capabilities within the area of sustainability. — Dan Muccio, SEDA - Council of Government’s Energy Resource Center"

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2014 – 2016
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MEMBER AT LARGE
Victor Arcelus ’96
Lisa Morrison Bogan ’78, P’13
Rich Karcher ’05
Brian Regan ’93

2015 EVENTS/KEY DATES

October 23–25
HOMECOMING WEEKEND

October 23
ALUMNI BOARD MEETING
Including: Sophomore Career Lunch, Pennant Program, First Night

October 24
ALUMNI LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
(By invitation only)

CONTACT US

The Bucknell University Alumni Association Board of Directors
Bucknell University Alumni House
90 University Avenue
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Send your BUAA Magnet submissions or feedback to magnet@bucknell.edu.

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